

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

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R 140740Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9030

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG BM

SUBJ: PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENTS

1. SPECULATION CONTINUES TO SURROUND EXTENT OF THE RECENT MOC OIL FIND AT LETPANDO (WEEKA #52, ITEM #5 AND BENNETT -- BA THAN HAQ MEMCON OF DECEMBER 1974.) WHILE MINISTER OF MINES DR. NYI NYI PROCLAIMED TO PRESS THAT FIND COULD PRODUCE 10,000 BPD BY END OF 1975 AND 20,000 BPD WHEN IN FULL PRODUCTION, OTHER OBSERVERS VIEW DEVELOPMENT MORE CAUTIOUSLY. ONE AMERICAN OIL EXPERT NOTES THAT MOC MAY BE OVERSTATING THE CASE SINCE ONLY TWO WELLS HAVE THUS FAR BEEN DRILLED AND THESE ONLY FOUR HUNDRED FEET APART. ALSO, MOC PRIVATE ESTIMATE THAT FIELD IS THREE MILES WIDE WOULD INDICATE LIMITED RESERVE; TYPICAL OF SMALL BURMESE OIL RESERVOIRS. ANOTHER U.S. OIL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE ESTIMATES FIELD MIGHT PRODUCE 5,000 BPD BUT ADDS THAT HIGH PARAFFIN CONTENT MAY REQUIRE SPECIAL HEATING EQUIPMENT FOR PIPELINE. EXXON DENIES BA THAN HAQ'S CONTENTIONS THAT IT WILL FINANCE LEPANDO-CHAUK PIPELINE; STORY PROBABLY STEMS FROM MOC INQUIRY TO EXXON ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF RIVER BARGES TO HAUL CRUDE DOWNRIVER (EXXON HAS PROVIDED NAMES OF FIRMS ENGAGED IN SUCH OPERATIONS BUT IS NOT GETTING DIRECTLY INVOLVED.)

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2. IN AN EFFORT TO STEP UP PRODUCTION AT CHAUK, MOC IS CONSIDERING

RENEWED ACIDIZATION OF OLD WELLS, A TECHNIQUE IT HAS USED IN THE PAST, IN HOPES OF STIMULATING RENEWED FLOW. IT IS IN TOUCH WITH AN AMERICAN FIRM TO BRING IN NECESSARY PUMPING EQUIPMENT AND IS EVIDENTLY CONTEMPLATING USING THIS PROCESS ON SOME 50 WELLS. MOC MAY BE HOPING THAT IT CAN TEMPORARILY REJUVENATE CHAUK PRODUCTION UNTIL THE LETPANDO FIELDS START PRODUCING.
OSBORN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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